

depleting a cell population obtained from the host of cells expressing cell-surface gp120 to obtain a depleted cell population, the original cell population comprising intact cells susceptible to HIV-infection, and

counting, in said depleted cell population, the number of intact cells expressing cell-surface gp120, wherein said depleted cell population has been contacted with an agent which activates HIV integrated into the genome of said cells under conditions effective for said agent to activate integrated HIV to obtain a determined number of cells, whereby said latent viral load in the host is the determined number of cells.

19. (Twice Amended) A method of determining latent viral load in a host infected with HIV comprising,

depleting a cell population obtained from the host of cells expressing cell-surface gp120 to obtain a depleted cell population, the original cell population comprising intact cells susceptible to HIV-infection,

contacting said depleted cell population with an agent which activates HIV integrated into the genome of said cells under conditions effective for said agent to activate integrated HIV, and

counting, in said depleted cell population, the number of intact cells expressing cell-surface gp120 to obtain a determined number of cells,

whereby said latent viral load in the host is the determined number of cells.

Please add the following claims:

20. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of detecting the expression of cell-surface gp120 further comprises isolating the intact cells.

21. The method of Claim 1, wherein the detecting the expression of cell-surface gp120 or the counting of intact cells is performed using flow cytometry or fluorescent microscopy.

22. The method of Claim 20, wherein the detecting the expression of cell-surface gp120 or counting of intact cells is performed using flow cytometry or fluorescent microscopy.

REMARKS

BASIS FOR AMENDMENTS OF CLAIMS AND NEW CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that in the detecting step of the method, intact cells are counted. Support for this amendment is found throughout the specification, for example at page 3 line 10, page 6 line 4, page 16 lines 29-30 and Examples 1-3. Claims 18 and 19 have been amended to better clarify the invention. In particular, these claims recite depleting a cell population of cells expressing cell-surface gp120 to obtain a depleted cell population and that the detection step of each method includes counting cells. Support for this amendment is found throughout the